

HONORING THE LIFE AND LEGACY
OF LEO VIRGINIUS WILLIAMS, JR.

HON. ELAINE G. LURIA

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, December 14, 2022

Mrs. LURIA. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor the life of Leo Virginus Williams, Jr.

Born on April 14, 1926, to the late Bessie and Leo V. Williams, Sr., Leo Williams was a Norfolk native and a 1943 graduate of Booker T. Washington High School. He was also a 1951 graduate of Norfolk Division of Virginia State College, a 1953 graduate of Virginia State University, and a 1963 graduate of the University of Virginia.

Mr. Williams served his country in the U.S. Navy from 1944 to 1946 as a Pharmacist Mate Third Class before beginning college. He was among the first African Americans in the U.S. Navy to serve in the Medical Corps and among the first African Americans to receive a graduate degree from the University of Virginia.

Following his graduation from Virginia State University, Mr. Williams began his career as an educator teaching math and business at Ruffner Middle School. He also served as the principal at Titustown, Robert E. Lee, and Oceanair Elementary Schools. Robert E. Lee was one of the first integrated schools for staff members in 1963, and Oceanair Elementary School was one of the first to have an African American principal. Leo's calm spirit and commitment to educating our students demonstrated a level of excellence quickly noted by the community and his superiors.

From 1967 to 1969, Mr. Williams served as the Assistant Director of the Norfolk Model Cities Program as a representative from the Norfolk School Board. He was promoted to Assistant Director of Pupil Personnel in Norfolk Public Schools (NPS). With this promotion, he became the first African American to serve on the Urban Assistance Incentive Fund Advisory Committee appointed by Former Governor Mills E. Godwin, Jr. In 1971, Mr. Williams became the Director of Pupil Personnel for the Norfolk School Board. He was also the first African American to serve in this role and was appointed to serve on the Urban Assistance Incentive Fund Advisory Committee by Former Governor Linwood Holton.

Mr. Williams retired in 1995 with more than 40 years of service to NPS. In 1998, he became an adjunct professor at Norfolk State University, where he taught school law and school community relations at the graduate level. In 2010, he returned to Norfolk Public Schools, where he remained until 2016. He retired again in 2016 at the tender age of 90 after years of service to our community.

Mr. Williams' commitment to our children and improving our education system is inspiring. I am proud to honor and recognize his leadership and legacy. Coastal Virginia is a better place because of him.

HONORING RICHARD RUHE

HON. BILLY LONG

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, December 14, 2022

Mr. LONG. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor the incredible career of Richard Ruhe. I

know him personally and you will not find a kinder, gentler or more professional and dedicated teacher than Richard. I'm excited to honor him with this CONGRESSIONAL RECORD today so that others can get to know the same man I do.

After beginning his teaching career in public school districts in Arizona, Arkansas, and Texas, Richard and his family moved to Missouri in 1991 when he accepted a position at my alma mater Greenwood Laboratory School on the campus of Missouri State University to teach instrumental music for grades 6–12. At that time, the high school band was comprised of a grand total of 3 students. Due to Richard's passion and dedication the music program at Greenwood grew exponentially over the course of his 25-plus years at Greenwood to include nearly the entirety of the secondary student body, year after year. The Greenwood band program became one of the strongest in the state, routinely winning national competitions against schools many times its size, and dozens of students achieved individual awards at the district and state levels.

While the success of the band program was absolutely phenomenal in terms of achievement, what really made it special was the sense of belonging, purpose, and acceptance so many students found within it. When Richard talks about his time at Greenwood now, while I know he's immensely proud of what the band program accomplished and all of his students' achievements over the years, he most often speaks about individual students as individual people and the time he spent getting to know them on hours-long bus rides to competitions, or when they'd pile into the band room between classes, at lunch, or after school to socialize with one another, or seek refuge from a hard day, in a place that felt safe. To so many students, he was an endlessly patient teacher, a mentor, a trusted advisor. It didn't matter how much inherent musical ability any given student had, they were part of the band's success, and they belonged in the band room. I know that is worth more to Richard than any of the trophies the band collected.

Madam Speaker, it is clear that Richard Ruhe has prioritized not only developing students' musical talents, but also forming them into young adults. His work with Greenwood Laboratory School is admirable.

RECOGNIZING KENNETH CHARLES
(K.C.) STOCK

HON. MIKE GALLAGHER

OF WISCONSIN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, December 14, 2022

Mr. GALLAGHER. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor the life and legacy of a remarkable man, Kenneth Charles (K.C.) Stock.

Born in 1938 in Oconto, WI, K.C. was the oldest of three children. He graduated from Oconto High School in 1956, and at the age of 19, K.C. began building houses and running a farm with Holstein cows which he raised for beef. Following two years at St. Norbert College in De Pere, K.C. left to begin working at Scanlan and Stock, after which he started his own pallet business in Oconto. K.C. was the bookkeeper, truck driver, purchasing agent, and had two employees at his small business.

In the midst of starting his own company, K.C. met and married the love of his life, Ms. Georgia Soulek.

While K.C.'s family expanded, so did his business. K.C. continued to grow his business operations and in 1971 he bought his first contractor yard, Scanlan and Stock, the same yard where he started his career years earlier. K.C. renamed the company Stock Lumber and would grow the company across the Midwest, opening locations in Green Bay, Appleton, Princeton, Fond Du Lac, Stevens Point, Sussex, Delavan, Windsor, La Crosse, Eagan, and Rochester. K.C.'s entrepreneurial spirit was evident in all that he did from Stock Lumber to his ownership of Cruiser Yachts in Oconto, Wisconsin. He built lasting businesses that granted many members of Northeast Wisconsin stable, family-supporting jobs.

As his business grew, so did his efforts to give back to his community. In 1991, he founded the K.C. Stock Foundation which played an instrumental role in funding the Children's Hospital in Northeast Wisconsin at St. Vincent Hospital to ensure that many families would not need to travel across the state for treatment. In recognition of his leadership in the community, K.C. was awarded the 1999 Free Enterprise Award presented by the Rotary Club of Green Bay. It is evident through his numerous accolades that KC left a lasting impact and influence on his family, friends, employees, and our entire community. I wish to thank K.C. for his lifelong dedication to our community and I offer my sincere condolences to his family and friends during this time.

Madam Speaker, the people of Northeast Wisconsin thank K.C. Stock for his immeasurable dedication and commitment to his community. My thoughts and prayers go out to his wife, Georgia, their children, grandchildren and great-grandchildren and to all of the lives he touched throughout our country.

HONORING THE LIFE AND SERVICE
OF RONALD W. LASCH

HON. FRED UPTON

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, December 14, 2022

Mr. UPTON. Madam Speaker, I rise today to note the passing of Ron Lasch.

Ron was a friend and advisor to me and hundreds of other Members of both parties during his 42-year career as a Floor Assistant in this body.

Ron came to the House as a 16 year old Page in 1958 when Joe Martin was the Republican Leader. He graduated from the Capitol Page School in 1960 alongside other men with long careers in the House, such as former Representative Jim Kolbe, who also passed away just days ago, and the late Donald K. Anderson, former Clerk of the House.

As a Floor Assistant, Ron monitored the proceedings on the floor and advised Members on scheduling and procedure. He valued the rules and traditions of the House, and more than once, privately talked a Member out of heated words that, spoken in anger, would likely be ruled out of order.

Ron retired in 2000, so there is a dwindling number of current Members who knew him, but at the time of his retirement, many of my